



Montgomery County Council

For Immediate Release

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Statement by Montgomery County Council President Blair Ewing at "Solutions not Sprawl" News Conference

"I'm happy to be here representing the Council at this impressive launch of citizens coming together to promote transportation alternatives that make sense, to protect our environment, and to preserve our quality of life and our neighborhoods.

"Virginians and Marylanders and DC residents, commuters and environmentalists, businesspeople and neighborhoods folks, young and old and Black and white are coming together to say 'yes' to common-sense transportation solutions and 'no' to the special interests.

"A second Potomac Crossing into Montgomery County with its associated truckway or sprawlway would steamroller County neighborhoods or slash through our agricultural reserve without having any real effect on the traffic congestion that frustrates us all. It would create more sprawl and, according to our County's "Commission on the Future," hurt economic development in the County.

"The entire County Council – Democrats and Republicans, liberals and conservatives, ICC supporters and ICC opponents – unanimously agree that this is a bad idea. So too do the County Executive and the state of Maryland. And this week our County Congressmembers, Connie Morella and Albert Wynn, also joined us in questioning this ill-conceived scheme. The Council's opposition has been consistent and longstanding.

"It's worth noting that when folks are asked a direct specific question -- like 'To solve the region's transportation problems, is it more important to build new roads or fund new transit projects?'-- an overwhelming 52 percent to 32 percent of Montgomery County folks chose transit over roads in a recent Baltimore Sun/Gazette/WTOP poll.

"A Garin/Hart/Yang poll last year asked Maryland voters the same question and those responding chose mass transit over building more roads by 61 to 23 percent.

"Let's work together to fight traffic congestion and sprawl and protect our environment and our neighborhoods."

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